



Victory Songs-YMCA donated by Marjorie Johnson; ID Badge donated by Sally Dovel; Statue donated by Patricia Moran.

☆☆☆ Send Us Your Rosie the Riveter ☆☆☆ and World War II Home Front Stories

THANK YOU to all who continue to submit stories and World War II historic memorabilia to the National Park in Richmond California.

Documenting Rosie the Riveters and World War II Home Front Workers History

Since November 2003, 8,500 Rosie the Riveters, or their families and friends have contacted the National Park Service to share their World War II Home Front stories. The National Park Service has collected 897 World War II stories, often hand written descriptions of two to fifty-five pages in length that are available at Rosie the Riveter/World War II National Historical Park.

This incredible response began as a gift from the Ford Motor Company, working in partnership with the National Park Foundation, and the National Park Service. The Ford Motor Company provided financial support for this effort and devoted several



Husband and wife team at work riveteing during World War II.

months of advertising that encouraged Rosie the Riveters and other World War II Home Front workers to share their stories. A press conference in Richmond, California, and a full page ad in *USA Today* kicked off the campaign. Full page ads were placed in women's magazines including *Working Women*, *O, Better Homes and Gardens*, and several others. A public service announcement on television reached thousands of World War II home front workers during the holidays.



Picture of Rose Monroe donated by Vickie Croston and held by Park Ranger Michele Seville, Embroidered Shirt donated by Ray Wilson and held by Chief of Interpretation Rick Smith, Tea Tray donated by Jeanne Priest and held by Park Staff Katie McCourt.

remember the famous poster “Loose Lips Sink Ships.” When the war ended, many didn't talk about their experiences. And as the Rosies often tell us “Well everybody just did their part. I wasn't special.”

But as we know looking back, these Rosies were very special. Their dedication and sacrifices helped to win World War II and changed the face of our society. Work groups at the ship yards and aircraft factories were integrated, when the rest of our society, including the military, were not. The women proved they could well do the jobs that were previously believed to be impossible for women. They took their children to daycare outside the home by the millions, and began a new social order of women with young, and very young, children going off to work for a full day, and a full week.

And our society is finally recognizing their amazing achievements. In May, 2004, United States Congress passed a resolution honoring the work of

The enthusiasm was catching. Rosie the Riveters were telling their stories, many for the first time. They were too busy, too tired, and too worried to talk about their work during the war - all

the Rosies. To celebrate this momentous event, twenty-four Rosies were invited to a reception in Washington, DC sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, the National Park Foundation, and the National Park Service.

The lead sponsors in the House of Representatives included the Women's Caucus, and Congressman George Miller whose district includes the new National Park, and the Congressperson Candice Miller from Dearborn, Michigan, home of the Ford Motor Company. Five Rosies were flown in from around the country, in addition to the local Rosies. It was a moving and thrilling event to see these women honored after so long a time without recognition.



Coveralls donated by Johnny Parris, held by Collections Specialist Intern, KhanKham Chaiyasane.

In May, the new World War II Monument on the Mall in Washington, DC was unveiled: it includes honors for Rosie the Riveters and other Home Front workers in addition to the soldiers who sacrificed on the battlefronts. When the President of the United States hosted a Memorial Day breakfast in the White House, five Rosies were invited to attend along with the veterans.



E-flag donated by Rudolph Mutter, held by Park Ranger Elizabeth Tucker (right) and Collections Specialist Intern, Sylvia Gray-White (left).



Pins donated by Lucille Kramer; Betty Reid Soskin, Park Library Technician typing Home Front Participants Contact Information.

If someone you know has World War II Home Front stories or memorabilia, contact the National Park Service to receive a Rosie and Home Front Stories packet with instructions on how to submit the information. The Biography Form only takes 5 minutes to fill out.

Important Phone Numbers:

Story Packet Requests: 1-800-497- 6743

Story Packet Questions: 1-510 -307- 8702

General park questions: 1-510 -232-5050

If you are interested in finding out about how you can assist the work of the the Rosie the Riveter Trust in support of the park, you can contact the Trust at:
phone: 510-236-7435
address: 117 Park Place, Richmond, CA 94801
web site: www.rosietheriveter.org



Park Staff Mary Jane Inserra and Alice Schragger with Home Front Participant Biography Form Log Books.